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PORT OF LIVERPOOL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR

1957



Printed by TINLINGS of LIVERPOOL

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PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY
OF
LIVERPOOL.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

This is the 85th Annual Report on the work of the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

Circular 33/52 of the Ministry of Health, dated 6th November, 1952, requests that "The Medical Officer of Health shall prepare his Annual Report for 1952 on the lines indicated in Form Port 20".

Form Port 20 reads as follows:—

PORT HEALTH AND RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

(1) Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, provides that a Medical Officer of Health shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, make an Annual Report to the Authority up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the

district, containing, in addition to any such matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

(2) Article 27 (18) of the Regulations provides that the Sanitary Inspector shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

(3) The Records of the Authority should accordingly be kept in such form as to enable their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Report without delay at the close of each year. The report should be in the form and sequence indicated herein—the lettering of the tables being adhered to.

(4) The Medical Officer of Health should include in his Report any comments which he may think desirable

- (1) under the headings shown; and
- (2) on the need for any development which he considers necessary for efficient administration.

The above-mentioned directions have been followed in so far as the information asked for is available.

Section II. Table B. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1957.

CLASS OF VESSELS	Number (1)	Tonnage (2)	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective (5)	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied (6)	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board (7)
			By the Medical Officer (3)	By the Port Health Inspector (4)			
SAILING FOREIGN—							
Steamers ...	6,100	12,963,399	377	2,435	148	147	122
Motor ...							
Sailing ...							
Fishing ...							
TOTAL FOREIGN...	6,100	12,963,399	377	5,085	196	194	173
SAILING COASTWISE—							
Steamers ...	5,709	3,329,149	2	208	14	14	5
Motor ...							
Sailing ...							
Fishing ...							
TOTAL COASTWISE	5,709	3,329,149	2	434	20	20	7
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	11,809	16,292,548	379	5,519	216	214	180

Figures in columns 1 and 2 supplied by H.M. Collector of Customs for this Port.

Section III.**Character of Trade of Port.**

The Port of Liverpool trades with all parts of the world, and almost every conceivable kind of cargo is carried by ships arriving in the Mersey.

Table C.*Passenger Traffic during 1957.*

No. of Passengers	Non Europe	Irish Republic
Inwards	66,500	154,300
Outwards	98,400	140,800

Section IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

The number of barges plying in and about the Port of Liverpool is approximately 400 with an estimated tonnage of 70,000 tons.

CANAL BOATS (Public Health Act, 1936, Part X).

A port health inspector is engaged periodically on the inspection of canal boats plying in the river or docks.

No. of boats inspected	284
No. of boats with contraventions	26
No. of contraventions	39
No. of contraventions corrected	31
No. of boats inspected for registration	—

Section V. WATER SUPPLY.

A constant check is kept by the port health inspectors on the cleanliness and condition of ships' drinking water. Periodic routine samples of water are taken from ships entering the port, and samples are also taken on request, or where there is any suspicion of contamination.

During the year, 338 samples of water were taken from 69 ships, and submitted for bacteriological examination: 182 samples were considered to be unsatisfactory, and steps were taken to ensure a clean water supply.

Co-operation has been maintained with the local Ministry of Transport inspector.

Section VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

The list of infected ports is as follows: Rangoon, Dar Es Salaam, Rio de Janeiro; all ports in China, Indo-China, India, Pakistan, Belgian Congo, Nigeria (including British Cameroons), Gold Coast, Colombia, and Ecuador.

RADIO MESSAGES.

MOORING STATIONS.

There has been no change in the above, as described in the Report for 1955.

The number of ships visited by the Assistant Port Medical Officers during the year was 379, of which 189 were from infected ports; of the vessels boarded in the river 21 were bound for Manchester.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, SURVEILLANCE, CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION.

Hospital Accommodation.

Surveillance.

Cleansing.

These were described in the report for the year 1955.

Disinfection of ships is done by officers of the Port Health Authority. During the year, 182 disinfections after infectious sickness were carried out. Infected beds and bedding were removed by the City Staff for steam disinfection.

Section VII.**INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

No case of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus or relapsing fever was landed during the year.

SMALLPOX.

Cases of smallpox are sent to the Port Health Hospital, New Ferry, Cheshire.

Transport for such cases is provided by the Liverpool City Ambulance Authority.

Consultants available are:—

Professor Andrew B. Semple, Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E. R. Peirce, Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer.

Facilities for laboratory diagnosis are available at the Liverpool University School of Hygiene.

Section VIII.**VENEREAL DISEASE.**

Special pamphlets giving the location, days and hours of the available facilities for treatment of venereal disease are distributed to ships by officers of the Port Health Authority.

There were 31 cases of venereal disease reported aboard 22 vessels arriving in the port during the year. These were referred, where circumstances required, for treatment at the Seamen's Dispensary.

Section IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SHIPS.**Typhoid Fever.**

Information was received on 12th June that two members of the crew of a vessel in dock at Birkenhead had been landed at Ardrossan on 6th June, 1957 with presumed malaria: they were subsequently diagnosed as typhoid fever.

The crew were paid off, their names and addresses ascertained, and a circular letter sent to the Medical Officers of Health of destinations.

Asian Influenza.

m.v. ——— arrived at her berth at Alexandra Dock on 27th June, 1957, and was boarded by the Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer. This was one of the first vessels to arrive in the Port of Liverpool with cases of influenza, presumed to be Asian influenza.

Details of voyage—

Left Calcutta—11th May, 1957.

Called at Colombo—19th May, 1957.

Called at Port Said—3rd June, 1957.

Arrived at Tilbury—14th June, 1957.

After discharging cargo at Tilbury the vessel proceeded to Rotterdam and thence to Avonmouth, where it arrived on 23rd June.

On 17th June, while at Tilbury, three members of the crew sickened with symptoms of influenza—headache, sore throat, joint pains, painful cough, etc. The illness was of 2 to 3 days duration. About 25 other members of the native crew went down in groups of 3 or 4 with similar symptoms and temperatures of from 100 to 101·6 degrees Fahrenheit.

Five native seamen were removed at Avonmouth and were placed in the isolation hospital for the purpose of virus identification.

Apparently, while in the Port of London, the crew of this vessel mixed with a group of Pakistanis who had arrived by air on 14th June from Pakistan, to join an outgoing ship, and cases of Asian influenza so called, had occurred among the latter group of men.

On arrival at Liverpool, 3 Europeans and 12 Asiatics, all members of the crew, were found to be suffering from similar symptoms to those described above, in varying degrees of intensity, and were removed to Fazakerley Hospital for observation and virus identification.

Disinfection of the quarters was carried out.

s.s. ——— arrived at Liverpool on 28th June, 1957 from Belfast. Between 21st June, 1957, when the vessel left Tilbury, and arrival at

Belfast, 13 members of the crew sickened with influenza-like illness—headache, feverishness, generalised pains, etc. The illness lasted only 2-3 days and the patients were nursed aboard ship.

During the vessel's stay in the Port of London the crew mixed freely with a group of Pakistanis who had arrived by air on 14th June to join an outgoing vessel, and it is understood that cases of Asian influenza had occurred among the latter group of men who are presumably the same as those who had mixed with the crew of m.v. ———.

On arrival at Liverpool all the sick crew had recovered but 8 samples of blood were taken from those who had been ill.

Subsequently many cases of Asian influenza occurred in vessels arriving in this port. In all cases the acutely ill were removed to isolation hospital, convalescent cases were strictly isolated aboard the ship, and appropriate disinfecting measures carried out. Blood samples and throat swabs were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service in order to achieve early identification of the virus. In addition to this the co-operation of the medical superintendents of passenger lines was obtained, and ships' surgeons agreed to take these samples from cases which occurred during the voyage, and to return them to the Port Health Office on return to Liverpool. These samples proved valuable in confirming the identification of the virus.

Table D.

The number of cases of infectious disease *landed from vessels* arriving in the Port of Liverpool and those occurring in Liverpool-bound ships which were disposed of *prior to the arrival of the vessels* at the port, are shown on the following tables.

Cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels.

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Plague	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3
Erysipelas	—	2	2
Asian Influenza... ..	10	455	39
Measles and German Measles	11	6	11
Chickenpox	5	2	7
Tuberculosis	37	13	26
Pneumonia	2	11	12
Dysentery	1	3	4
Malaria	3	5	6
Mumps	2	1	3
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning... ..	—	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	2
Pyrexia of Unknown Origin	1	—	1
	74	502	117

Cases of Infectious sickness occurring in vessels during the voyage
but disposed of prior to arrival.

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Plague	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	5	4
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Measles and German Measles	50	1	27
Chickenpox	16	3	16
Tuberculosis	1	9	8
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Malaria	3	15	11
Mumps	12	2	13
Poliomyelitis	5	—	4
Dysentery	1	3	3
Asian Influenza	—	23	3
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Meningitis	—	1	1
	91	68	99

Cases landed from other ships (coastwise vessels).

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crews.	
Tuberculosis	5	—	5
Asian Influenza	—	6	2
	5	6	7

Section X. MALARIA.

During the year 26 cases of malarial fever in 17 ships were notified, which were either landed in Liverpool or had recovered abroad.

Section XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No rodent plague was discovered either in ships or ashore. One suspected rat proved on examination to be negative.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS ON SHORE.

The measures taken against rodents have been continued during the year, as described in previous reports.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

(PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951).

The measures taken against pests have been continued during the year, as described in previous reports.

25 Rodent Control certificates were issued during the year.

Section XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

The measures taken against rodents in ships have been continued during the year on the same lines as shown in previous reports.

During 1957, 175 rats and 115 mice, recovered from ships, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination.

INSPECTION OF DOCK PREMISES.

The following defects and nuisances were dealt with on dock premises:

Description of Premises	Defective or Inadequate					Structural Defects	Rat Harbourage	Rat Infestation	Accumulated Refuse	Noxious Effluvia	Dirty Conditions	Verminous Conditions	Damp Conditions	Water Supply	Miscellaneous
	Lighting	Heating	Ventilation	W.C. Accommodation	Drainage										
Dock Sheds	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	8	23	—	14	—	—	—	—
Canteens ...	—	1	—	1	5	10	7	13	4	—	24	1	—	—	45
Factories ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quays ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	42	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roadways ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	59	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Premises ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mills ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Lairages ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offices ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Airport Premises...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ...	—	1	—	1	11	10	42	30	133	—	43	1	—	—	47

The re-building and modernisation of all premises throughout the entire port area is still proceeding. Excellent co-operation has been received from officials of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

Number and species of rats caught, in the Port of Liverpool during the year 1957.

1957	Ships		Quays		Other Sources		Total		Examined		Destroyed		Total Caught
	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	
January	91	—	38	19	57	21	186	40	95	30	91	10	226
February	35	1	33	1	42	12	110	14	95	13	15	1	124
March ...	117	—	13	7	37	13	167	20	67	20	100	—	187
April ...	33	—	27	2	44	22	104	24	64	12	40	12	128
May ...	89	—	18	25	12	55	119	80	37	60	82	20	199
June ...	150	—	21	5	22	28	193	33	41	19	152	14	226
July ...	72	—	11	14	28	23	111	37	49	32	62	5	148
August	68	—	24	2	23	23	115	25	46	21	69	4	140
September	82	—	47	23	24	37	153	60	78	48	75	12	213
October	87	—	40	26	27	48	154	74	65	64	89	10	228
November	63	—	37	18	21	40	121	58	59	56	62	2	179
December	93	—	26	9	20	19	139	28	48	24	91	4	167
TOTAL	980	1	335	151	357	341	1,672	493	744	399	928	94	2,165

Table E.—Rats Destroyed.

Rodents destroyed during the year 1957 in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black Rats	980
Brown Rats	1
Species not known	—
Sent for examination	175
Infected with plague	—

Rodents destroyed during the year 1957 in Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Category	Number
Black Rats	692
Brown Rats	492
Species not known	—
Sent for examination	968
Infected with plague	—

Number of Mice destroyed in vessels 472

Number of Mice destroyed on quays 420

Number of Mice examined from vessels and quays ... 508

The combined returns of all rats and mice caught and destroyed by shipping firms employing their own rat-catchers, by rat catching companies and by the Port Health Authority, during the year 1957, are as follows:—

	Rats	Mice
PORT—		
In vessels	1,051	480
On quays	1,266	426
	2,317	906

N.B.—In addition to the above, 3,366 rats and 231 mice were caught and destroyed by the Dock Board ratcatchers during the year.

Number of Visits to **Vessels** by Rat Catchers ... 6,484
 Number of Visits to **Vessels** by Rat Searchers ... 6,625
 Number of Visits to **Quays, Sheds, etc.**, by Inspectors ... 2,669
 Number of Visits to **Quays, Sheds, etc.**, by Rat Searchers 3,413
 Number of Visits to **Quays, Sheds, etc.**, by Rat Catchers 19,504

Table F.—Deratting Certificates Issued.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1957.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued after Fumigation with		After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	TOTAL	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
H.C.N.	Sulphur					H.C.N. and Sulphur
90	9	—	99	553	652

Section XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

Careful attention has been paid to the inspection of ships for nuisances. The steady improvement in crew accommodation and catering facilities has been maintained with a corresponding decrease in sanitary defects. There has also been a steady decrease in the number of ships infested with vermin.

Inspection of Shipping.

Year 1957.

Nationality	Visits	Re-Visits	Total
British... ..	3,806	282	4,088
Dutch	469	5	474
German	203	7	210
Norwegian	185	5	190
Swedish	159	1	160
American	153	2	155
Danish	92	1	93
Russian	58	1	59
Panamanian	56	8	64
Liberian	55	6	61
Spanish	55	—	55
Finnish	41	1	42
Japanese	37	7	44
Greek	31	6	37
Argentinian	21	1	22
Belgian	21	—	21
Italian	18	3	21
Costa Rican	14	—	14
Israeli	11	—	11
Chilian	9	—	9
Turkish	8	—	8
Syrian	5	3	8
French	4	—	4
Polish	3	1	4
Honduras	2	—	2
Bulgarian	1	—	1
Indonesian	1	—	1
Swiss	1	—	1
TOTAL	5,519	340	5,859

Table G.—Inspections and Notices.

Nature and Number of Inspections				Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
				Statutory	Other Notices	
NATURE OF INSPECTION						Nuisances Remedied
Dirty Crew Quarters	...	...	—	None	315	315
Verminous Quarters	...	...	—	"	505	501
Dirty Washhouses or W.C.'s.	...	...	—	"	21	21
Foul Water Tanks	...	...	—	"	—	—
Foul Bilges	...	...	—	"	—	—
Foul or Choked W.C.'s.	...	...	—	"	1	1
Accumulations of offensive refuse	...	...	—	"	24	24
Gear stowed in Crews quarters	...	...	—	"	—	—
Damp Quarters	...	...	—	"	—	—
Leaky Deckheads	...	...	—	"	8	4
Defective Heating System	...	...	—	"	2	2
Defective Bulkheads...	...	...	—	"	1	1
Defective Portlights, Skylights, etc.	...	...	—	"	8	5
Defective or Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	—	"	—	—
Defective Deck Covering	...	...	—	"	1	1
Defective Lockers	...	...	—	"	3	3
Defective Chain or Hawse Pipes	...	...	—	"	—	—
Rat Harbourage	...	...	—	"	—	—
Defective W.C. Fittings	...	...	—	"	8	6
Defective Soil Pipes	...	...	—	"	1	1
Defective Waste Pipes or Scuppers	...	...	—	"	7	7
Defective Washing Facilities	...	...	—	"	11	11
Inadequate Lighting...	...	...	—	"	—	—
Inadequate Drainage	...	...	—	"	—	—
W.C.'s. discharging on Quay...	...	...	—	"	34	34
Miscellaneous	...	...	—	"	46	46
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS	...	...	5,519	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	5,519	—	996	983

Summary of Insanitary Conditions during the year 1957.

Class of Vessels	Number Inspected	Number in which Nuisances were found	Per cent.
SAILING FOREIGN—			
Steamers	2,435	148	6.08
Motor	2,650	48	1.81
Sailing	—	—	—
Total	5,085	196	3.85
SAILING COASTWISE—			
Steamers	208	14	6.73
Motor	225	5	2.22
Sailing	1	1	100.00
Total	434	20	4.61
<hr/>			
Nationality			
Number Inspected			
Number in which Nuisances were found			
British	3,806	171	
Foreign	1,713	45	
Total	5,519	216	

Nuisances found in Vessels.

Defects of Original Construction (a)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Structural Defects through wear and tear (b)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Dirt, and other conditions prejudicial to health (c)	Per cent. of Total Defects
45	4.52	39	3.91	912	91.57

Section XIV.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934, 1948.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

DANGEROUS DRUGS.

During the year, 76 certificates authorising the purchase of scheduled dangerous drugs were issued under the Dangerous Drugs (No. 3 Regulation), 1923, amending the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1921.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The following table gives the total number of aliens arriving in the Port of Liverpool during 1957, and the number of each of the categories under which alien passengers are classified by the Immigration Department of the Home Office:—

Visitors	Business Visitors	Others	Total
9,585	94	2,438	12,117

Total number of vessels carrying Alien passengers ...	963
Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ...	189
Number of aircraft dealt with by the Medical Inspector	13

Transport of the Port Health Authority Staff.

The Liverpool Overhead Railway, which gave direct and easy access to all docks from the centre of the City, was closed on the 31st December, 1956. An Austin Omnivan equipped to carry 12 persons was therefore purchased by this Authority in December 1957, and provides a regular service from the Port Health Office to certain convenient points on the dock estate.

Medical Inspection of Aliens. Year 1957.

	TOTAL.	Number Inspected by the Medical Inspector.	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector.	CERTIFICATES ISSUED					
				Lunatic Idiot or M.D.	Undesirable for medical reasons.	Physically incapacitated.	Suffering from acute infectious disease.	Landing necessary for adequate medical examination.	Transmits.
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ...	12,117	10,346	231	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer ...	33	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Transmigrants ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ...	12,150	10,347	232	—	1	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION.

Throughout the year 1957 food inspection has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the various regulations governing importations of food into this country for human consumption.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48.

Article 10 of these Regulations states that "No prohibited meat shall be imported into England or Wales for sale for human consumption, and no meat or meat product shall be imported without an official certificate".

Infringements of the above Article have occurred and been dealt with as follows:—

Western Germany.

A consignment of 199 cases of canned hams from Western Germany via New York landed at Liverpool, was found to be in good condition, but not bearing any official certificate. This consignment was re-exported to Western Germany.

France.

81 boxes of lard from France were found on opening to be extensively mouldy. The official certificate on each box was not signed as required: the consignment was therefore returned to the packer in France.

New Zealand.

108 drums of mutton tallow from New Zealand were stencilled "INEDIBLE" and did not bear any official certificate. The tallow was described on the Entry to H.M. Customs and on all the accompanying documents as *edible*. This consignment was sent for soap manufacture.

Australia.

54 drums of edible beef tallow from Australia landed, and were detained as they did not bear an official certificate. A bulk covering

veterinary certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Australia was produced by the importer and on this the consignment was released after the requirements of the Regulations had been pointed out to the importer.

FROZEN MEATS.

Two shipments consisting of about 22,000 carcasses of mutton, lamb, and 108 crops of beef were landed damaged by fuel oil, and were diverted to local cold store. Trimming was carried out where necessary and then the whole was reconditioned by ozonisation until freed from odour; it was then released for human consumption.

45 cartons of frozen cooked boneless beef from New Zealand via New York landed and when the meat was partially defrosted for examination it was found to be sour and decomposing. The whole consignment was released for animal food.

Onchocerciasis.

Boneless brisket beef from Australia continued to need careful examination after partial defrosting. The incidence of onchocerciasis was as high as 48·8 per cent during the year.

Caseous Lymphadenitis.

The examination of mutton and lamb for caseous lymphadenitis continues. 100 per cent examinations carried out show that 4·29 per cent caseous lymphadenitis existed.

Chilled Beef.

Chilled beef from Australia, New Zealand and Argentine has landed in good condition.

Frozen Fish.

Frozen salmon from Japan has landed in increasing quantity and in good condition.

Canned Foods.

Importation of canned foods remained high and in generally good condition, demanding more detailed attention only occasionally as the following examples show:—

Four shipments of canned ox tongues from Holland totalling 750 cartons, each containing 6 tins, were fully examined and found to contain from 41 per cent to 95 per cent blown and burst tins. The burst tins were destroyed locally and the blown tins were permitted to be returned to the packers in Holland.

Four consignments of canned hams from Portugal totalling 1,268 cases, each containing 6 tins, were found to contain from 7 per cent to 77 per cent blown and burst tins. The rejected tins were all disposed of locally for industrial purposes.

4,297 cartons of canned grapefruit and oranges from Jamaica landed in a damaged condition and when fully examined were found to contain 11·6 per cent blown and burst tins. These were destroyed.

978 cartons of canned tuna fish from Peru, each containing 48 tins, were fully examined and found to contain 37 per cent blown and burst tins which were destroyed.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

These have arrived in generally good condition. Large importations of onions from various sources, chiefly Spain and South Africa, landed in the early part of the year and remained in the dock warehouses for prolonged periods until finally decomposition necessitated their destruction. From four ships 2,100 cases weighing approximately 145,800 lb. were destroyed. For a similar reason 2,000 bags of potatoes from Cyprus were destroyed.

Frozen "Garden Peas" from New Zealand have landed in good condition.

Record consignments of tomatoes from the Canary Isles landed: some consignments exceeded a quarter of a million packages.

Dried Fruit.

Small quantities of sultanas and currants have been used for animal feeding purposes, some have been exported for wine manufacture as they were unsound, but importations have been generally in good condition.

Nuts.

Cokernuts from West Africa have been found up to 25 per cent unsound when fully examined. A consignment of 242 tins of Brazil nut kernels found to be heavily infested with maggots, cocoons and larvae, was fumigated, cleaned and finally the equivalent of 21 tins weighing 693 lb. was destroyed as unfit for human consumption. Two consignments of Brazil nuts, one consisting of kernels packed in tins and one of nuts in shell, were found to be damaged by essential oil which had been carried in the same ship. A quantity of the bulk nuts in shell was released after aeration, etc., but a lesser quantity of 17,338 lb. was found to be unfit for human consumption and was destroyed. The contents of 241 tins of kernels, weighing 7,953 lb. were allowed to be used for animal feeding purposes only.

Sugar Confectionery.

Consignments of sugar confectionery in a partly manufactured condition arrived from Jamaica. The cardboard containers became broken in handling and transporting, consequently some of the contents escaped on to the dirty floors of the transit sheds. These dirty sweets are sometimes brushed up and collected into bags for forwarding to destinations to be dealt with under the supervision of the local Medical Officers of Health, who are advised by this Authority. Some are re-exported to the sender.

Egg Products.

Consignments of frozen liquid and dried egg products from Australia, China and Denmark, totalling 54,710 packages, were landed and have been sampled for bacteriological examination. They fell into three categories as follows:—

1. Frozen liquid whole egg.
2. Crystallised albumen.
3. Powdered albumen.

The sampling was maintained at 5 per cent from each batch in each consignment, and pathogenic salmonellae were reported in 33·3 per cent of the samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service: nine varieties were identified. Up to 100 samples have been taken and submitted daily.

One consignment of frozen liquid whole egg from Australia was described as Pasteurised, the standard 5 per cent sampling was applied but no pathogenic salmonella organisms were reported by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Importations of pathogenic salmonella infected dried egg albumen have been permitted to go forward to certain registered heat treatment centres outside Liverpool under the supervision of local Medical Officers of Health, to whom full details are supplied by this Authority. Some have been exported and some used for inedible purposes. A number of tins of frozen liquid whole egg from contaminated codes have been forwarded to places outside Liverpool for high temperature baking under the supervision of the appropriate Medical Officers of Health.

A further quantity has been destroyed under supervision.

Bulk Edible Lard.

The importation of bulk edible lard, in tankers carrying approximately 350 tons each, which was reported more fully in last year's report, has continued satisfactorily.

Bulk Raw Sugar.

The first consignment of bulk raw sugar into Liverpool arrived in 1952 when a ship carrying 3,700 tons of bulk raw sugar arrived from Jamaica. The sugar was discharged from the ship by four cranes using grabs, with a total unloading capacity of 340 tons per hour. The sugar was loaded into hoppers at the ship's side and from there into road

transport vehicles for conveyance to the refineries: this was the alternative to handling the sugar in bags. Specially constructed ships are operating in the service. This bulk handling has now been carried a step further by building a huge silo capable of holding 100,000 tons of bulk sugar into which the sugar is loaded by conveyor belt direct from the ship's side. This silo is actually situated within the City of Liverpool but is only separated from the dock estate by a dock roadway. Eight cranes are now used in the discharge from the ship and road transport can still be loaded at the ship's side if required. With the additional facilities the sugar can be discharged by the eight cranes and new conveyor belts at the rate of 940 tons per hour, which is said to exceed that of any other installation in the world for unloading bulk raw sugar from ships. During peak unloading sugar will cross the dock road at the rate of 16 tons per minute on an elevated conveyor belt to a height of 100 feet where it enters the tower of the silo.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1928/53.

Samples of various foods have been submitted for chemical analysis under the above Regulations. Citrus fruits have been reported as having no excessive amounts of diphenyl, no thiourea present, and no prohibited colouring matters.

Samples of frozen cream from Australia received satisfactory chemical and bacteriological reports.

General Hygiene.

The overall improvement in general hygiene in reference to handling and transport of meat, etc., noted last year, has been at least maintained.

UNFOUND SUGAR.

943 tons 15 cwt. 0 qr. 10 lb. of unbound sugar (loose-collected, sweepings, etc.) was dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of to local Refiners for reconditioning.

Table showing the quantity and description of unbound meats utilised under supervision* during the year 1957:—

DESCRIPTION.	TOTAL WEIGHT		CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION						
	Tons	lbs.	Tuberculous.		Brine stained, mouldy and decomposed.		Other causes.		
	Tons	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	3	6 2 14	—	—	—	1	19	1	0
Mutton	6	13 2 20	—	—	—	6	5	0	17
Pork	—	5 1 25	—	—	—	—	5	1	25
Veal	—	— 2 4	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Total	10	6 1 7	—	—	—	8	10	1	18
						1	15	3	17

*These were destroyed or allowed to go for industrial purposes to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer.

Table showing the total quantities of the different unsound foodstuffs utilised under supervision during the year 1957 :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal	10	6	1	7
Offal (Beef, Mutton, etc.)	13	10	0	27
Canned Goods	123	3	2	25
Fruit and Vegetables	3,900	15	0	24
Cereals	419	3	2	23
General (Fish, Poultry, Rabbits, etc.) ...	38	11	2	7
TOTAL	4,505	9	3	1

The following tables give the particulars of samples sent to the City Analyst and City Bacteriologist for examination during the year 1957 :—

CITY ANALYST.					CITY BACTERIOLOGIST.				
Bacon	...	...	...	1	Bacon	...	...	...	1
Butter Fat	...	...	...	1	Beef	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	1	Butter	...	...	...	1
Frozen Liquid Whole Egg	...	...	...	2	Cream	...	...	...	1
Lemons	...	...	...	2	Cockles	...	...	...	3
Onions	...	...	...	1	EGG:				
Oranges	...	...	...	1	Albumen Crystals	...	63	}	3,641
					Albumen Powder	...	6		
					Frozen Liquid Whole Egg	3,571			
					Hen Egg Crystals	...	1		
					Egg, in Shell	...	...	...	1
					Faeces	...	...	...	23
					Lactose Albumen Compound	...	...	...	1
					Margarine	...	...	...	1
					Mutton	...	...	...	1
					Ox Tongue	...	...	...	2
					Pork	...	...	...	1
					Veal	...	...	...	3
					Water	...	...	...	338

In addition, 375 samples of goat hair, mohair, horse hair, bristle and wool were submitted for examination.

The Port Health Authority is also engaged in the issue of certificates of disinfection for foreign governments and other purposes in connection with the exportation of hides, wool, jute sacks and cloth, tailors' cuttings, rags, second-hand bags and clothing, bales of cotton, etc.

The department also endorses under the United States, Canadian and other regulations, certificates regarding wholesomeness of food

articles, and the sanitary condition of the premises in which the articles are produced or stored, comprising poultry, game, cheese, bacon, hams, potatoes, preserved fish, pickled beef, tongues, sausage skins, lime juice, etc.

The work attached to preparing and recording these certificates is considerable, and takes up a large amount of time of the department.

I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance received from H.M. Collector of Customs and staff, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and their officers, and the various shipping companies who have co-operated with the Port Health Authority in the maintenance of Public Health and the prevention of disease in the port. The Consular Bodies have at all times given courteous assistance.

ANDREW B. SEMPLE,
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Liverpool Port Health Authority.

